Pollution in Metro Cities

1890. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dense cities like Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi have become breeding grounds for pollution and congestion;

(b) whether nearly half of the population in these cities lives in slums and squattered settlements; if so, the number of persons who live in slums in each of these cities; and

(c) what are the details of measures Government have taken to improve environment and control pollution in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Ever increasing in migration to the mega cities like Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi stress the infrastructural facilities beyond their carrying capacity. Hence, a significant part of the population is forced to live in slums and squatter settlements which lack civic amenities. Scarcity of resources lead to congestion and pollution. The Government has taken various steps to mitigate environmental degradation which include the following:—

(1) A mega city scheme which is applicable to the citites of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore has been launched by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for their infrastructural development to cope with the influx of population to these cities.

(2) A scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns around mega cities has also been launched by the Minisitry of Urban Affairs and Employment to control in-migration to the cities.

(3) Ministry of Environment & Forests has evolved a national programme for the control of population in the country which envisages a time bound Action Plan to control pollution from various sources such as industrial, domestic, vehicular, agricultural and noise. This Plan stipulates the implementation of time bound programmes entailing coordinated inter-departmental strategies for prevention and control of pollution and disposal of solid wastes, bio-medical wastes and hazardous wastes in an environment friendly manner with the help of best available technologies and trained manpower.

(4) An Action Plan for the control of pollution in Delhi has been formulated.

(5) Action Plans have been drawn up for the restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas.

(6) Environmental awareness cam paigns have been launched to apprise the people about the ill-effects of pollution on health.

First Phase of Ganga Action Plan

1891. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that first phase of Ganga Action Plan, to keep Ganga pollution free, has not been successfully completed, as reported in the Jansatta of 7th January, 1999;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what precautionary measures are propscd to be taken before embarking upon IInd phase of the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been under implementation since 1985. Of the 261 sanctioned schemes of various categories such as interception, diversion and treatment of municipal waste water, crematoria,